



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**  
Jacksonville District

# News Release

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P.O. Box 4970 Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019

Nanciann Regalado, Corporate Communications  
Phone: 904-232-2236  
FAX: 904-232-2237

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*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

## **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers supports request for independent review of Herbert Hoover Dike**

Jacksonville, Fla. – The commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District said today that he welcomes an independent review of the conditions of Herbert Hoover Dike at Lake Okeechobee, as suggested by state officials. “Herbert Hoover Dike has successfully protected the lives and property of the lake’s surrounding communities for over 65 years,” said Col. Robert M. Carpenter. “We hold public safety as our highest priority. Through our rigorous monitoring program and our upcoming major rehabilitation project, the dike’s strength and ability to continue protecting the community will be assured for many more generations.”

Inspections of Herbert Hoover Dike, to identify and repair potential problem areas, occur on a regular basis according to the lake’s water levels. When the lake is below 16.5 feet, inspections of the 140-mile earthen dam are conducted on a monthly basis. As water levels rise to 16.5 to 17.5 feet, inspections are done weekly, and at levels at and above 17.5 feet, daily inspections take place. The lake’s level has been stable at 17.11 feet for the last three days, and inspections are currently being conducted weekly.

Regulatory releases of water from the lake are made according to a joint federal-state schedule, which help to keep the lake at safe and environmentally sound level and minimize potential stress on the dike. Repair supplies are stored at various locations around the lake to ensure ready access if a need is identified, and Corps officials work closely with state emergency operation managers, the South Florida Water Management Districts and the counties surrounding Lake Okeechobee to plan for potential emergency situations and to keep the public well informed.

The Herbert Hoover Dike performed exceptionally well through Hurricane Wilma. Inspections occurred immediately following the storm to identify and plan for repairs to areas of erosion, which were expected due to the intensity of the storm, the wave action in the lake and the nature of the structure.

Rehabilitation of sections of Herbert Hoover Dike will begin this year, during which a cement cutoff wall and gravel relief trench will be constructed to provide additional strength. A contract has been awarded for rehabilitation of the first 4.6 miles.

Carpenter is confident that the Corps' analyses would be validated should an independent review take place, and he is committed to supporting such a review. "We can only benefit from an evaluation of our work by impartial experts," he said. "While we understand the community's concerns, we are also comfortable that the Herbert Hoover Dike will continue to weather storms very

well. We want the communities we serve to rest assured that the dike is strong and stable, and will remain that way into the future.”

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